

ARCHIVAL RECORD – SOURCE METADATA PAGE

Collection: Gene W. Poor Digital Archive

File Name: 2010_paulhookercenter_halloffame_genepoor_final.pdf

Publication / Source: BGSU News

Type of Material: University Announcement / Award Feature

Pages Included: Photograph and article

Title of Work: *Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame Inductees: Gene W. Poor*

Author / Reporter: [Not listed – Staff]

Publisher / Organization: Bowling Green State University

Place of Publication: Bowling Green, Ohio

Date of Publication: 2010

Captured By: Dr. Gene W. Poor

Date Captured / Scanned: November 2025

Short Description / Subject: During Bowling Green State University's Entrepreneurship Week (E-Week), Dr. Gene W. Poor was inducted into the Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame.

Rights / Ownership:

Original publication © Bowling Green State University. Scanned for educational and historical documentation under fair use.

Induction into the Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame (2010)

In 2010, Dr. Gene W. Poor was inducted into the Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame in recognition of his lifelong contributions to entrepreneurship, creativity, and student development. As the founder of the Visual Communication Technology program at Bowling Green State University and a pioneering entrepreneur in animatronics through LifeFormations, Poor dedicated his career to helping students identify their strengths, think boldly, and turn ideas into reality.

The Hall of Fame honor acknowledges not only his professional achievements but also the decades he spent mentoring young entrepreneurs, developing curriculum, building companies from scratch, and shaping the entrepreneurial ecosystem at BGSU. His influence is felt across classrooms, startups, student competitions, and the broader creative community.

Digitized and preserved for educational and historical reference by Dr. Gene W. Poor, November 2025.

Induction recognizing Dr. Gene W. Poor's entrepreneurial leadership, student impact, and creative innovation.

[BGSU](#) / [Allen W. and Carol M. Schmidthorst College of Business](#) / [Centers & Institutes](#) / [Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership](#) / [Entrepreneurship Week \(E-Week\)](#) / [Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame](#) / [Paul J. Hooker Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame Inductees](#) / Gene Poor



Dr. Gene Poor has had a long history of starting his own businesses, as well as helping others start their own enterprises. He has led a dual life over the past 40 years. . . as a college professor and business entrepreneur. Dr. Poor came to BGSU in

1970, earning his doctorate in 1973. He started the Visual Communication Program in the College of Technology in 1975, which has become one of the more popular majors on campus.

In 2004, Dr. Poor was awarded the prestigious BGSU Master Teacher Award and the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The following year, he was awarded the position of Hamilton Professor of Entrepreneurship in BGSU's Schmidthorst College of Business.

Dr. Poor's first "official" company was called Image 2 whose principle product controlled multi-media presentations. In 1978, Dr. Poor designed and built the Parrot and the Peacock restaurant in Bowling Green (now called Easy Street Café and Grumpy Dave's). In 1982, looking for new challenges, he sold the restaurant and started an interactive exhibit division for a trade show company in Toledo called Good Displays.

This division evolved over the next 10 years, and in 1990, Dr. Poor purchased the division and launched LifeFormations, Inc. Over the past 20 years, LifeFormations has become a world leader in the creation of lifelike figures and dioramas for museums, visitor centers, retail outlets, and theme parks. LifeFormations is considered a leading force in the creation and evolution of animatronic figures.

Dr. Poor is currently the Chairman of the Board for LifeFormations, and continues to teach and inspire future entrepreneurs in his role as the Hamilton Professor of Entrepreneurship at BGSU.

Published: 2010